Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at Page 14, line 10 through Page 15, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

The experiments were performed on a voicemail transcription task. (For a general discussion of voicemail transcription, see Padmanabhan et al., "Recent Improvements in Voicemail Transcription" (Proceedings of EUROSPEECH '99, Budapest, Hungary, 1999)). The speaker independent system has 2313 context dependent phones, and 134,000 diagonal gaussian mixture components, and was trained on approximately 70 hours of data. The feature vectors are obtained in the following way: 24 dimensional cepstral vectors are computed every 10ms (with a window size of 25ms). Every 9 consecutive cepstral vectors are spliced together forming a 216 dimensional vector which is then projected down to 39 dimensions using heteroscedastic discriminant analysis and maximum likelihood linear transforms (see Saon et al., "Maximum Likelihood Discriminant Feature Spaces", to appear in Proceedings of ICASSP '2000, Istanbul, 2000).